

## Amendments to the Claims

1. (currently amended) A telephone, comprising:
- a. ~~an~~ real-time input device for entering keyed in digits corresponding to area code digits and local digits of a telephone number<sub>7</sub>;
  - b. an area code memory;
  - ~~b.c.~~ a user default ~~an~~ area code selection device that is selectably user-switchable at any one time to exactly one among a plurality of distinct states, each state being associable with a distinct area code in said area code memory, a selected state designated a current default state, which current default state is maintained independently of any of said keyed in digits that correspond to area code digits; and; for selection of programmed digits corresponding to an area code of said telephone number,
  - ~~c. memory storage for said programmed digits and,~~
  - d. a processor programmed to retrieve from said storage an area code associated with said current default state and ~~combine~~ prepend

said ~~programmed digits~~ retrieved area code  
with ~~to said any~~ keyed in local digits and  
transmit a signal corresponding to a combined  
telephone number that ~~includes~~ comprises said  
retrieved area code and said keyed in local  
~~digits and said programmed digits.~~

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2. (currently amended) The telephone of claim 1,  
further comprising a processor programmed to  
compare said keyed in digits with a ~~set~~  
of each sequence of a list of special number  
sequences that are not valid for beginning a  
local telephone number and transmit telephone  
signal codes that are ~~based~~ dependent on the  
result of said comparison.
  3. (currently amended) The telephone of claim  
21, wherein said real-time input device is a  
keypad.
  4. (currently amended) The telephone of claim  
21, wherein said real-time input device is a  
virtual keypad.
  5. (currently amended) The telephone of claim  
21, wherein said real-time input device is a  
voice input device.

6. (cancelled)
7. (original) The telephone of claim 1, further comprising a display.
8. (original) The telephone of claim 7, further comprising electrical circuitry for display of virtual push buttons.
9. (original) The telephone of claim 8, further comprising electrical circuitry for display of an area code selection menu.
10. (cancelled)
11. (cancelled)
12. (cancelled)
13. (currently amended) A method for generating telephone signaling codes, comprising the steps of:
- a. receiving electrical signals corresponding to digits keyed in by a user,
  - b. comparing in a processor said digits keyed in by a user with said digits to digits from a each sequence of a list of special number sequences that are not valid for beginning a local telephone number,

c. if said comparison in step b generates at least one match, then generating a match condition, and generating signals corresponding to the verbatim of said keyed in digits,

d. if said comparison in step b generates zero matches, then generating a no match condition, and generating signals corresponding to a combined telephone number comprising said keyed in digits and a previously selected default area code, said previously selected default area code being independent of any last area code dialed.

~~e. generating signals corresponding to signaling codes, said signals conditionally dependent on said comparison in said processor, and corresponding to sequences of digits conditionally selected from either:~~

~~i. said digits keyed in by said user, or~~

~~ii. preprogrammed area code digits.~~

14. (cancelled)

15. (cancelled)

16. (cancelled)

17. (cancelled)
18. (cancelled)
19. (original) The telephone of claim 1, wherein said telephone is a wireless telephone.
20. (cancelled)
21. (new) The telephone of claim 1, said user default area code selection device comprising a state retainer, such that once switched by a user to a state, said selection device remains in said state, irrespective of whether any calls to other area codes are dialed, until switched by a user to another state.
22. (new) The telephone of claim 1, said user default area code selection device comprising a plurality of push buttons dedicated to selecting a default area code without generating any keyed in digits irrespective of the duration each of said plurality of said push buttons remains pushed.
23. (new) A method for area code dialing, comprising the steps of:

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- a. selecting in a user default area code selection device a user default area code from a plurality of area codes without dialing said user default area code,
- b. maintaining an association in memory between said selected area code with said user default area code,
- c. keying in digits corresponding to a telephone number,
- d. comparing in a processor said keyed in digits with each sequence from a list of special number sequences that are not valid for beginning a local telephone number,
- e. if said comparison in step d generates at least one match, then generating a match condition, and generating signals corresponding to the verbatim of said keyed in digits,
- f. if said comparison in step d generates zero matches, then generating a no match condition, and generating signals corresponding to a combined telephone number comprising said keyed in digits and said selected default area code, said selected default area code being independent of any last area code dialed.

24. (new) The method of Claim 23, further comprising the step of maintaining in memory said association irrespective of the conditional outcome of step d.

25. (new) The method of Claim 23, in which said area code selection device comprises electrical circuitry generating an area code selection menu.

26. (new) The method of Claim 23, in which said area code selection device comprises electrical circuitry generating a plurality of virtual push buttons.

27. (new) The method of Claim 23, in which said area code selection device comprises a plurality of push buttons.

28. (new) The method of Claim 27, in which said plurality of push buttons are

a. dedicated to the area code selection function,

b. incapable of generating keyed in digits, and

c. independent of the push duration.

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29. (new) The telephone of Claim 2, in which said list of special number sequences includes the sequence ``9-1-1''.
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